

Cikananga's Sustainable Farming Program

Promoting animal welfare and aiding farmers transition from synthetics at our demonstration regenerative farm.



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the farm

Farm catchup.

Farm infrastructure development

Drip irrigation vs. Sprinkler irrigation systems.

Direct seed vs. transplant

Finding the balance between harvest success and pest pressures.

News from the farm

By Scott Hartle

Bed development continues to progress, with the completion of blocks C and D, next we will move to block B prior to block A, with the hope of completing the process before the end of March.

The greenhouse is thriving with the recent seeding of flowering plants for our insect strips, including Marigold, Nasturtium, Zinnia, Bunga matahari (Sunflowers), Cosmos, kalender (Calendula), and Tithonia. Additionally, we have also seeded: Kubis (Cabbage), Brokoli (Broccoli), Kol bunga (Cauliflower), Swiss Chard, Selada (Lettuce), Tomat (Tomato), Terong (Eggplant), Bawang (Spring Onions) and Jagung (Corn). Outside, we have direct seeded Sawi hijau (Mustard Greens), Pak Choy, Bayam (Spinach) and Lobak (Radish).

In addition to seedling joy, Farm Three now has a toilet. Ensuring the needs of all staff and our visitors are met.



Direct seed vs. Transplant

Farm infrastructure development

With the recent purchase of a 5,000L water tank we are ready to begin installing our dripline irrigation system at Farm Three.

In the context of small-scale regenerative farming, the contrasts between dripline and sprinkler irrigation systems present unique advantages and challenges.

Dripline Irrigation: This method ensures precision in water delivery, fostering optimal soil moisture which promotes soil health by reducing erosion and compaction risks, and by limiting water to intended plant areas, it discourages weed growth and reduces disease incidence. However, its initial setup cost is higher, and maintenance is necessary.

Sprinkler Irrigation System: Offering extensive coverage and versatility, sprinkler systems cater to a broad range of crops and conditions at a lower initial investment. The downsides include higher water wastage due to evaporation and runoff, potential soil compaction, and increased disease susceptibility due to wet foliage.



The methods of establishing crops—namely direct seeding and transplanting—hold pivotal roles in farm management strategies.

Direct Seeding: Characterized by its simplicity, direct seeding involves sowing seeds directly in the field, promoting cost savings by bypassing nursery stages. It supports natural soil interactions, potentially increasing plant resilience but risks higher exposure to pests, diseases, and weed competition.

Transplanting: This method starts seedlings in a controlled setting, allowing for an extended growing season and improved field weed management. While transplanting fosters rapid, uniform crop establishment and may enhance yield consistency, it incurs higher labour costs and the challenge of managing transplant shock.

We practice both methods on the farm, favouring transplanting due to high pest predation but we are looking to increase our direct seeding alongside physical barriers between crops and pests e.g., row covers